

## NEVADA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (NACO)

Board of Directors' Meeting

May 24, 2024, 9:30am

Eureka County Courthouse

Commission Chambers

10 S. Main St.

Eureka, NV 89316

### ADOPTED MINUTES

**Attendance:** President Giomi, President Elect Andreozzi, Vice President Gardner, Past President Higbee, Esmeralda County Commissioner Keyes, Humboldt County Commissioner Tipton, Lincoln County Commissioner Reese, Lyon County Commissioner Henderson, Mineral County Commissioner Rubert-Manzini, Pershing County Commissioner Crim, Storey County Commissioner Carmona, Washoe County Commissioner Herman, White Pine County Commissioner Carson and NACO Staff (Vinson Guthreau, Jennifer Berthiaume, Jacob Brinkerhoff, Amy Hyne-Sutherland and Amanda Berg)

The meeting was called to order at 9:32 a.m.

1. **Public Comment.** Linda Bissett of Power Engineers informed the Board that the BLM Environmental Impact Statement for the Greenlink project would be released in June and that a briefing on the project would be forthcoming.
2. **Approval of Agenda.** The agenda was approved on a motion by Past President Higbee with second by President Elect Andreozzi.
3. **NACO President's Report.** President Giomi thanked Eureka County for hosting the meeting and remarked on the dinner held the previous evening. He referred to the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of NACO and shared an article from December 1933 which referred to a resolution sent to the President that discussed civil works programs and noted that there would be a presentation on the history of the Association at the Annual Conference in September.
4. **NACO Executive Director's Report.** Vinson also thanked Eureka County for hosting the meeting and thanked the Board for the great in person attendance.
5. **Approval of Minutes of the April 26, 2024, NACO Board of Directors Meeting.** The minutes were approved as presented on a motion by Commissioner Tipton with second by Commissioner Carson.
6. **Presentation of Proclamation and Award to Former County Commissioner.** President Giomi read the proclamation honoring Senator Pete Goicoechea into the record and Senator Goicoechea thanked the Board for the honor. Commissioners Tipton, Higbee, Carson made remarks on the Senator's accomplishments and assistance regardless of if the issue was outside his district. President Giomi concluded the item by noting that it is important to recognize special people within Nevada communities. The Proclamation was passed on a motion by Commissioner Tipton with second by Commissioner Crim.

7. **Update from the Nevada Department of Agriculture, J.J. Goicoechea, Director, Nevada Department of Agriculture.** Director Goicoechea gave the Board a brief overview of his background including his time on the Eureka County Commission, service on the NACO Board and term as the State Veterinarian. He then outlined the five divisions he oversees within the Department and introduced Chad Sestanovich as the new Administrator of the Animal Industry Division. Director Goicoechea informed the Board of the increase in international trade within the Animal Industry division, including a Toronto restaurant that is serving all Nevada products. He also discussed next steps in the State conducting meat and poultry inspections and noted that the Nevada regulations are equal to or more stringent than those of the USDA. With State inspections he informed the Board that more processing plants will be seen in the counties. Director Goicoechea informed the Board of his intention to re-open the State veterinary lab in Elko and discussed efforts to monitor avian flu and conjunctivitis as they relate to food safety. He then noted the ending of the universal free lunch program in schools ending and encouraged the Board to advocate for parents to enroll their children in the program. Next, he spoke about the Home Feeds Nevada program and the funding he was able to obtain to support the program that purchases from Nevada producers and distributes through local food banks. Director Goicoechea also discussed measurement standards for gas pumps and grocery store scales. The export of vegetal products was outlined, and he noted that 93 million pounds of potatoes were exported from the State in the last fiscal year. The Mormon Cricket problem and what is being done to mitigate them was next on the topics of Director Goicoechea's update. The final update Director Goicoechea gave the Board was the fact that he had issued a quarantine order on several of the State's hunting units due to Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) being identified in California. He outlined what the order contained and noted that should the disease migrate into Nevada it has the potential to decimate the Mule deer population. President Giomi inquired as to what CWD looks like and the Director informed the Board that it attacks the animal's nervous system, and they forget to eat causing them to waste away and that their hides become very rough looking. Commissioner Manzini inquired if there is a way to prevent the introduction of CWD into the State. Director Goicoechea noted that there is no way to prevent the introduction as the herds migrate across State lines, but reiterated that his order states that there is to be no export of the brain or spinal column of harvested animals in seven hunt districts and that he would expand the order if it becomes warranted. Commissioner Carson noted that at one time Agriculture was the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest economic driver in the State and asked if it still was. Director Goicoechea noted that it is still the same and a large part of that is due to the packaged food and craft beverage industries. He also noted that the largest coffee roasting plant in the country is located in Douglas County, and that with the efforts to increase the export of meat and vegetal products it should remain at that standing. Vice President Gardner inquired as to whether the Park meat processing facility being opened in Douglas County would be under USDA or State inspection and Director Goicoechea stated that would be up to the Park's, but the option is there for them to choose, noting that the USDA is stretched very thin for inspections. President Giomi inquired as to if there was a need for inspection by both and was informed that would only be the case if they intend to export out of State. Commissioner Reese inquired as to the identification of CWD in the State and he was informed that it has yet to be identified in Nevada, but that would be coming as the two California cases confirmed had come from the Bishop and Yosemite areas. He reiterated the need to debone any harvested animals in the identified units and to leave the carcasses as the kill sites. At Commissioner Crim's request he again clarified that if the disease is identified in Nevada the quarantine order would domino to other units. President Elect Androzzini inquired as to the safety of harvesting tenderloins and backstrap and the Director noted that there are mixed reviews on the safety of taking those portions, but that with proper handling it should be safe to consume. President Elect Androzzini also noted that the

Director level updates are helpful and important. Commissioner Tipton inquired as to an export of potatoes being rejected by Mexico. The Director discussed questions of the authenticity of their claims noting that tests conducted by the Department did not find any of the issues claimed and that the Mexican authorities would not share their testing results. The item was concluded by President Giomi thanking Director Goicoechea for his time and informing the Board that he would be working on securing updates from the Directors of other State departments.

8. **Approval of Jeffrey Share, Former Director of Budget and Planning, Clark County, as Replacement for Jessica Colvin, Chief Financial Officer, Clark County, as One (1) of Three (3) NACO Appointments to the Committee on Local Government Finance. NRS. 354.105.** Vinson reminded the Board that NACO has three appointments to the Committee and that traditionally the Board appoints a member from Clark and Washoe Counties and the third is a representative from one of the Rural counties, noting that the other two current appointees are Abigail Yacoben the CFO of Washoe County, and Gina Rackley the Comptroller of Humboldt County. Vinson reminded the Board that counties on fiscal watch appear before the Committee and that it was important to Ms. Colvin that her replacement provide good representation. He then directed the Board's attention to Mr. Share's resume within the agenda packet. Mr. Share's appointment was approved on a motion by Vice President Gardner with second by President Elect Andreozzi.
9. **Discussion of United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development Better Grants Better Service Initiative, Including Review and Possible Approval of NACO Comment Letter to USDA, Rural Development.** Jennifer directed the Board's attention to the draft letter in the agenda packet and gave them a background of the issue, noting that Senator Cortez Masto's office had reached out. She discussed the issue being a topic of discussion at the NACO Legislative Conference earlier in the year and the need to streamline an exceedingly difficult grant application process. Jennifer informed the Board that county frustrations with the process led to the development of the letter for their consideration. President Elect Andreozzi noted the need to address the designation of "non-metro" to more accurately represent communities that are isolated geographically. Vinson discussed the benefits that changes to the process would have with the costs and workforce issues the counties experience. Vice President Gardner informed the Board that Douglas County has recognized the deficit of not having a dedicated grants person and that they had created the position. Commissioner Carson discussed her work to make the distinction of White Pine County being Frontier and not Rural. President Giomi noted the problem most of the county's face with the lack of grant administration staff. Vinson informed the Board that he has been collaborating with the Delegation and has expectations that the way federal dollars come down will change in the future, specifically to a more level the field when counties are trying to leverage existing resources. He concluded the item by noting that he understands counties' reluctance to hire staff but informed the Board that the data shows a 3:1 ROI and encouraged the Board to reach out to the Governor's Office of Finance with questions. The submission of the comment letter was approved on a motion by Past President Higbee with second by Commissioner Carson.
10. **Consideration and Possible Action for Appointment by the Governor to the Board of Indigent Defense Services (BIDS), Including the Reappointment of Current Members, Due to Expiring Terms.** Vinson gave the Board an overview of the Board and the Association's current appointees including Commissioner Crim. He informed the Board that the term's of Joni Eastley, Lorinna Dellinger and Dave Mendiola will expire in July and that they are all interested in continuing to serve. Vinson then informed the Board that staff recommended the reappointments. President Elect Andreozzi remarked on the need for

succession planning with these appointments. Vinson stated that is something that is being worked on and noted that longer terms for the appointments would be beneficial as well since the issues the Board addresses are quite complicated. Commissioner Crim noted that there is a lot to learn when you come on the Board and reiterated that longer service terms would be helpful. The reappointments of former Nye County Commissioner Eastley, Nye County Assistant Manager Dellinger, and former Humboldt County Manager Mendiola were approved on a motion by Past President Higbee with second by Commissioner Crim.

11. **Update and Information Regarding the 2024 National Association of Counties (NACo) Annual Conference, hosted by Hillsborough County (Tampa).** Vinson reminded the Board that advanced registration for the event ended in June and gave them an overview of the conference including the election of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. He also discussed the resolutions adoption process and how it shapes the Associations federal advocacy efforts for the coming year. He also reminded the Board that anyone wanting to serve on one of the 10 steering committees to reach out to staff and they would be enrolled. He concluded his remarks by noting that there would be one or two Nevada specific events during the conference.
12. **Update from NACO Public Health Coordinator.** Amy reminded the Board of the Foundational Public Health Study process and the final three counties to have their reports finished. She informed the Board that she had recently returned from a public health law conference and that she has data sharing agreement toolkits available to share. She also discussed information gathered on multijurisdictional collaboration and reminded the Board of the workshop being held in August on demystifying the governance structure of county health districts.
13. **Update from NACO Subcommittee on Association By-Laws.** Commissioner Reese informed the Board that the Subcommittee had met that Wednesday and that they had discussed the potential need to hire legal services to ensure the process was completed properly. He also informed the Board that they were requesting input from Commissioners and that more Subcommittee meetings would be held prior to the creation of a discussion draft for Board discussion.
14. **Update from NACO Legislative Committee.** Vinson informed the Board that robust discussions were held by the Committee and that they continue to flush out proposals for the Board's consideration in July and August, reminding them that September 1<sup>st</sup> is the deadline for the submission of the NACO Bill Draft Requests. The Board then held a discussion on the issue of medical licensure reciprocity, utilizing the example of housing being available in Jackpot only 30 miles from Twin Falls ID. Amy stated that discussions are being held in within the public health community on the issue.
15. **Update and Possible Action. Regarding Public Lands and Natural Resources Issues Affecting Counties Including:**
  - a. **Updates from the NACO Public Lands and Natural Resources Subcommittee.** Commissioner Tipton and Jacob gave the Board an overview of the previous day's discussions. Including an Executive Order on old growth and Pinion Juniper management, which has an open comment period. The Subcommittee also discussed upcoming meetings on the Bi-State Sage Grouse, Wild Horse and Burro issues, and the BLM's proposed planning changes.

- b. **Possible Approval of NACO Comment Letter Regarding the Sage Grouse Land Use Plan Amendments.** Jacob referred the Board's attention to the draft letter in the agenda packet and thanked the counties for their support in the drafting of the document. He gave the Board an overview of the letter including the apparent attempts to work around the denial of the former Planning 2.0 proposal and issues surrounding the inclusion of local land use planning, mapping, and socioeconomic concerns. President Giomi noted that it was good to call out the fact that they don't consider those concerns. President Elect Andreozzi stated that it is a good letter, and it is important to maintain public land access as two of the top three industries in Nevada rely on access to those lands. Both President Elect Andreozzi and President Giomi discussed the need for a letter from the Governor's office as well. Vince stated that discussions had been occurring with the Governor's staff and that the draft letter would be shared. The comment letter was approved on a motion by Commissioner Tipton with second by Commissioner Carson.

16. **Updates from Members of the National Association of Counties Board of Directors and Western Interstate Region (W.I.R.) Board of Directors.** Past President Higbee informed the Board that a Board meeting had been held at the recent WIR conference and upcoming resolutions were discussed but that he expects no major changes to the current platform. Commissioner Tipton informed the Board that updates to the WIR By-laws were discussed and the possible inclusion of Nebraska as an Associate member. The National Public Lands Center was also discussed at the WIR conference and the Center's website is being developed and data already collected is being uploaded for sharing. Past President Higbee noted that it will be important for counties to submit information to the Center for sharing and advocacy efforts. It was also noted that staff was recently hired for the Center. Commissioner Tipton concluded the item by noting that a new Legislative Director had been hired for WIR, Zeke Lee from Utah.
17. **NACO Board Member Updates.** Members of the Board gave updates on activities within their counties.
18. **Public Comment.** Commissioner Carson thanked staff for organizing the dinner the previous evening.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:38 a.m.